GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:58
ANSWERED ON:24.07.2006
SHORTAGE OF FOOD
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the eminent agricultural scientists in the country have attributed the prevailing shortage of food in the country to the neglect of farmers;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof; and

(c) the concrete steps taken by the Union Government to provide facilities to farmers to become self reliant in agriculture?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a) & (b): No such specific instance has been reported.

(c): Government is implementing a number of schemes for development of the agriculture sector, and thereby to make the farmers self reliant. The strategies formulated by the Government for making the agriculture sector more vibrant and dynamic so as to increase its production and productivity with resultant increase in the income of farmers include
(i) enhancing institutional credit flow to the farmers and strengthening of cooperative credit structure;
(ii) ensuring the timely availability of quality inputs;
(iii) promoting farmer friendly, demand driven agriculture extension system;
(iv) accelerating diversification to high value crops including horticulture activities;
(v) strengthening infrastructure and the supply chain;
(vi) optimizing the efficient utilization of available water resources through micro irrigation and enhancing the sustainability of dry-land/rain fed farming system;
(vii) reforming agricultural markets, and widespread use of post harvest technology; and
(viii) putting in place a broader spectrum of risk management apparatus for farmers.